



15 Minutes of Fame

Army Pvt. Edward Lang, 571st MP Co.

Spoken like a true private, with no shame

Compiled by
Spc. Chris S. Pisano
and
Spc. Joseph A. Morris
The Wire

Q: How long have you been in the Army?
A: Almost a year now.

Q: What made you join?
A: Females of course!

Q: Has it worked for you?
A: Not at all...

Q: Has the Army been everything that you've bargained for?

A: Well, besides the fact that I'm living in a closet, yeah, it's pretty much what I expected.

Q: O.K. terrific. What do you think about this impending hurricane, could it be the end of the world?

A: Hard to say. I've never been in one before.

Q: Can you be more wrathful than a hurricane could?

A: I'm capable of tearing some stuff up, so maybe.

Q: You think you and your unit could form up along the beach and fight off the hurricane with your weapons when it comes?

A: That's the most ridiculous question I've ever been asked.

Q: You think your hooch will be any cleaner after the storm hits?

A: Maybe, if it's still there.

Q: What do you think this hurricane will pump out on the Richter scale?

A: Probably 80 percent.

Q: So you're a pretty squared away soldier?

A: You could say that. Haven't gotten a negative counseling statement yet.

Q: What's your best Basic Combat Training memory?

A: When we fixed a broken T.V. and used a coat hanger for an antennae. We got to watch basketball games on CBS for the last two weeks.

Q: What do you think of guarding the detainees?

A: This is history, and I'm glad to be a part of it.

Q: So you like waking up to do your job?

A: I like doing my job, but I could do without the waking up part.

Q: You like to do PT?

A: Does anybody?

Q: I see you smoking cigarettes, think you could smoke a pack straight and then pass the two-mile run on a PT test?

A: Maybe if these cigarettes had filters.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?

A: Every night me and my roommates throw a party at around 2030 hours...it's called a sleeping party.

Q: Anything you



Photo by Spc. Joseph A. Morris
Pvt. Edward Lang, a great addition to the Army.



Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano
As the sun sets, Lang shines bright as he begins to skillfully dance under the pale moonlight.

like to do when you're awake?

A: I like to dance. I used to bust moves on the streets of Seattle for pocket change.

Q: You must be rich from doing that?

A: Actually, one time I had to pay a guy 10 cents just to even watch me.

Q: Do you ever bust your moves out at the Windjammer?

A: They're not ready for me. They're not even ready for my best back in the states.

Q: Why don't you show us some of those moves right now?

A: Sure. How about you take a picture?

Q: Will you be dancing outside during the storm when it strikes?

A: Probably not. I have not a death wish.

Q: Think you could take Satan in a fight?

A: All I would need is one good hit to get him down.

Q: What is the sickest weapon you could build?

A: I learned how to make a shank with a grinder once.

Q: You seem to be a funny guy.

A: I have no shame.

Q: What do you see in your future?

A: I think I'm going to do that green to gold thing, become an officer. Maybe I'll do some police work in the civilian world. We'll see though, as long as this hurricane doesn't ruin my chances!

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Making the break for freedom

Refugees leave all behind in search of opportunities for a better life

Story by
Spc. Michelle M. Scsepko
The Wire

The American Dream is something that servicemembers fight to protect and preserve but at a price — every servicemember knows freedom is not free. In the end, the price paid by servicemembers around the world seems minimal, because it is what makes America free!

Being deployed here, you slowly begin to feel the frustration from the restrictions placed upon your freedom. What shall you wear to work this morning? Hmmm...could it be a camouflage suit? Your superior made what you consider an unfair decision; do you quit? How about telling them off? How about, NO! You will deal with it because you're a Soldier, Airman, Sailor, Marine, or Coast Guardsman. Your job often entails sacrificing your freedom for someone else's. There are those who may protest us being here, some reporters may speak negatively of our mission, and some may never even realize or care about the hardships we face while being here. But, these are their rights because of you. So before you feel discouraged or lose sight of the honorable and noble cause you defend, take one moment to reflect on all those you help, and all those who

would give their lives to live the American Dream.

"People flee their countries for a multitude of reasons. Some for political and others for personal reasons, and some flee for their lives," said Lupe O. Beltran, prescreening officer, Immigration and Naturalization Services. "Often Cubans attempt to swim to GTMO or cross through minefields. Some make the trek in one piece and some don't. But almost all do it with hopes of a better life."

A better life, a chance for happiness, and the opportunity to succeed, all of which is often taken for granted by those who have it at their fingertips. But, people from Cuba, Haiti, and other struggling countries will risk life, limb and all they have for that opportunity. All they are left with is their hope and a chance of



Photo © John R. Stanmeyer
The 378-foot U.S. Coast Guard cutter Hamilton dwarfs a 10-foot sailboat carrying Haitian refugees off the coast of Haiti. Thousands of Haitians fled their homeland in makeshift boats in 1994 as U.S. vessels searched the waters to enforce "Operation Able Manner" July, 1994.

landing on or near GTMO.

When a refugee or Cuban migrant is intercepted at sea by the Coast Guard near GTMO or greeted by an observant Marine patrolling the fenceline, they are picked up and brought in. That's when the detailed interview is conducted by GTMO's I.N.S. office.

"My business is human rights and my customers are refugees. I interview all who make it this far," said Beltran.

This interview process determines the
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A look inside...



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Next week's 15 minutes of fame could be you!

Chaplains' Corner

The Cab Ride

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. "Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said.

I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated". "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice". I looked in the rearview mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

"What route would you like me to take?" I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a

furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow down in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID; BUT, THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

- Anonymous

—Submitted by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Vincent A. Salamoni, CHC, USNR

JDOG's Corner



Army Col. John J. Perrone, Jr.
Joint Detainee Operations Group Commander

As the time nears to prepare for redeployment we should take time to pause and reflect on the manner we've discharged our duties. Though duty descriptions differ from person to person and branch to branch, we are all playing a significant role in the Global War on Terrorism. Our mission has certainly not been an easy one but despite the challenges, our commitment remains undaunted. Throughout my daily contacts with both our civilian and military counterparts, words of praise and thanks are commonplace.

But, we must remember to stay focused; avoid becoming complacent. We must maintain the edge until our final day. Our job is not complete until we return to our various home/duty stations and complete the transition process.

Leaders should begin the process of identifying soldiers for recognition and preparing NCOER's and OER's. These are very important documents that have a major impact on a service members' career.

Soon, other service members will begin arriving at GTMO not only to replace JTF 160 but also to activate the new Joint Task Force GTMO. In order for this transition to be effective, we must remain committed to our daily duties. One of our final responsibilities is to teach your replacements what you know and give them the tools they need to have a successful tour as they serve our nation.

As the JDOG Commander, it's a sincere honor and privilege to serve with such dedicated and committed service members in our nation's cause to rid the world of terrorism

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Multicultural Day Celebration

Sunday, October 27, 2002
1-5 p.m. at Phillips Park
Sponsored by Naval Station
and Naval Hospital
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Sports

Upset in the tournament bracket

Stories and photos by
Spc. Jose A. Martinez
The Wire

The Hood Ratz, "the underdogs," take the opening game of the tournament as the Marine Corps Security Force took an overwhelming defeat at 32-6.

Eight Teams fight in a double elimination tournament to see who comes out victorious.

The tournament action started with a bang Monday night as mother nature had her hands in the mix. Heavy rainfall transformed Cooper field from grass and dirt to filthy mud and slop.

Players felt they were in a mud bowl. "It was very slippery on the field. It was tough running your pass routes. The cleats were no good in the mud," said Spc. William Whittenburg.

The first game was an indication that anything can happen in a tournament and the first game was a good example. The seventh rank team Hood Ratz were able to upset the second ranked team MCSF Co.

Hood Ratz drew first blood in the contest. They scored in the



Hood Ratz' Spc Wascav Vizzaino and Army Pfc. Jamaal Wilkins work the wish-bone offense to perfection in the win over Marine Corps Security Force Co.

opening drive of the game and lead 6-0.

MCSF Co came right back and scored six points of their own.

After the scores, the defenses on both teams were not budging until the ending of the first half.

With 1:28 remaining on the clock and at their own 18-yard line, the Hood Ratz went to a no huddle offense.

Time was running out as the Hood Ratz were marching down the field when Army Sgt. James Stringfellow took the team to the MCSF's 20-yard line, he found

an opening in the defense and took advantage as he connected with Whittenburg in the end zone.

"We were getting our yards by throwing short passes. They were playing off our wide receivers so we were picking them apart by throwing short 5-yard passes," said Stringfellow the Hood Ratz quarterback.

"It felt good putting my team in the lead, Stringfellow saw me open and threw the pass. I turned around and there was the football. Then I took it to the end zone for a touchdown," said Whittenburg.

As the clock was winding down the scoreboard read 13-6.

Hood Ratz opened the second half with the football and momentum.

"Our defense and offense were both putting points on the board in this game," said Stringfellow.

Hood Ratz were clicking on all cylinders. The game became a stalemate until MCSF Co's quarterback threw an interception that sealed the game for the Hood Ratz.

"The plan was to contain the MCSF Co.'s QB and stay in front. I told the team I would do the rest. When he threw the ball, he didn't see me in zone coverage. I was able to pick off the ball and score a touchdown," said Army Sgt. David Ingram.

This win puts them one step closer to the championship game Saturday night.

"I knew MCSF Co. was not ready for the Hood Ratz," said Wilkins. "We still have Hospital and NAVSTA to take care of in the tournament."

"Lock your doors, no one is safe no more. The Hood Ratz are in town," said Wilkins.

346th MP Co. takes the Commander's Cup home

The 346th Military Police Company won the JTF-160 Commander's Cup out right with 2830 total points on Saturday.

They won hands down. The second place team was 1000 points behind the 346th MP Co., which dominated the cup from when it

started August 7 until it ended 21 September.

The teams had to compete in an eleven-event tournament. The events were Eightball, Spades, Bowling, 5K Run, Table Tennis, Horseshoes, Volleyball, Chess, 7 on 7 Paintball, Darts and the final event, Swimming.

There were individual and team events. Each event was crucial to each team. The teams' goals were to accumulate the most points possible in each event.

"The Commander's Cup was a team effort. We had the maximum people allowed in each event. I made sure we were able to score maximum points for our team," said Spc. Eric L. Blewett who is the team's captain.

Each event had a minimum and a maximum amount of participants allowed. The 346th MP Co. used the rules to their advantage in the tournament.

"It felt great to win the Commanders Cup for the 346th MP Co. We just wanted to show that we could win this tournament. It felt great representing our home state of Kansas and win it all," said Blewett.

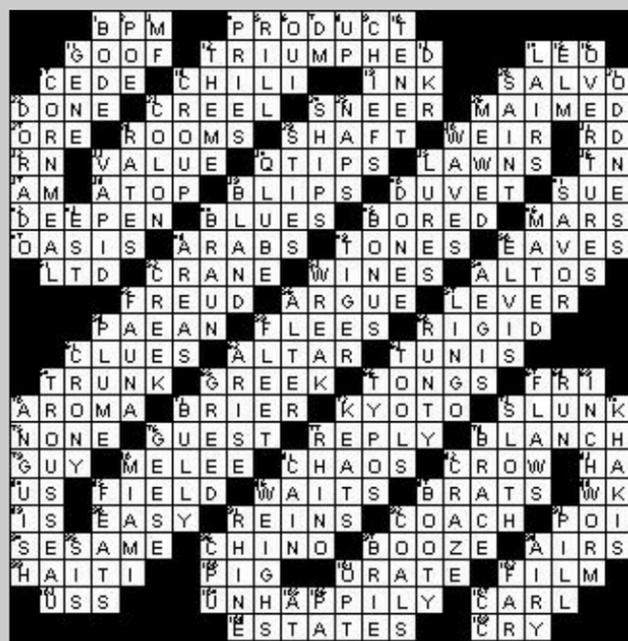
It was no easy task for the 346th MP Co. to come out on top of the Commander's Cup standings and bring the prize home to Kansas.

"There was great competition in the Commander's Cup. We finished in first place in Darts, Horseshoes, and the Spades tournament we took control of the Commander's Cup after the Spades event (August 25). We took the lead and never looked back," said Blewett.



Army Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus presents the first place trophy to Spc. Eric L. Blewett and members of the 346th Military Police Company for winning the Commander's Cup at the award ceremony Saturday.

September 20th
Crossword Puzzle Answers



Horoscopes: Week of September 30 - October 6



Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Don't stifle your feelings on Monday, or they'll leak out some other way. You should feel more centered on Tuesday and Wednesday, and be able to speak your truth, take an active role in the situation and articulate yourself with a bold and fiery style. Whatever you become involved in seems to be exciting, playful and daring. Listen carefully to your body on Thursday and Friday, and don't ignore any warning signals, if a tip to sick call is needed - then go! It's tempting to avoid your responsibilities, but that will only get you a counseling statement. Give over the weekend, and give selflessly.



Apr. 20 - May 20

Open all channels of communication on Monday, and be hospitable. Dine with friends and become a part of the discussion. Even though you prefer to melt into the furniture, force yourself to contribute. You can distinguish yourself on Tuesday and Wednesday by showing your strengths at work, but don't be arrogant. You're most impressive when you let your talents and attributes speak for themselves. An amorous mood on Thursday and Friday brings out your affections. Spend time on self-improvement over the weekend. P.T., eat right, rest and relax.



May 21 - Jun. 21

You are apt to be tight with money on Monday and moody if you're unable to purchase something you've had your heart set on. Put things into perspective - do you really need another GTMO outfit? When you're feeling more lighthearted on Tuesday or Wednesday, try to surround yourself with people familiar, maybe someone from your unit. They are sure to keep your mood upbeat. You are full of advice on Thursday and Friday, but nobody seems to want it. You are happy to start new projects over the weekend, but your energy may wax and wane.



Jun. 22 - Jul. 22

You prefer staying home and taking care of household duties on Monday, a GI party may be just what the doctor ordered. You may feel like tackling a really big job, like buffing the floors. Tuesday and Wednesday brings out your poise and charisma, and even a little bit of flamboyance. However, you may regret being extravagant if you impulsively spend large amounts of money at the NEX. Your practical side reemerges on Thursday and Friday. It may be difficult to make decisions over the weekend. Try to be flexible when dealing with housemates on Sunday.



Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

On Monday, you'll be in deep thought. You'll want to take action based upon your feelings and intuition, and you'll reject logical reasoning or practicality. Your heart is open wide on Tuesday and Wednesday, and you exude confidence and warmth. You are happiest when supplying support, advice and encouragement to others. You are more thrifty than usual on Thursday and Friday, so go ahead and splurge at the commissary or NEX. And since you don't like to talk about money problems, you prefer being alone, at least until you've figured out how to fix the situation.



Aug. 23 - Sep. 22

You are persuasive on Monday, and manage to get people to attend some mandatory fun function, or support some cause. You may be overwhelmed by being over tasked by your command Tuesday and Wednesday, but for the most part, it's all your own doing. The stars advise you to be flexible and do the best you can under the circumstances. You'll be amazed at what you're able to accomplish on Thursday and Friday. As the weekend approaches, you should watch out for impulsive buying. Steer yourself away from the NEX, Tiki Bar, and Windjammer.



Sep. 23 - Oct. 22

Trying to get straight answers out of people in your chain of command may be impossible; nobody wants to hurt anyone's feelings. Awaken your creativity on Tuesday and Wednesday, and engage in activities where you can take a leadership role. People look up to you when you know what you're talking about. Your conscience gets the better of you on Thursday or Friday. By the weekend, you should be feeling free and very much alive. Your appreciation of beauty allows you to see things that make everyday, ordinary things appear exquisite.



Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your innate intuitive abilities to break down boundaries and encourage troops around you to motivate themselves to do an outstanding job on Monday. Go with the flow, and you'll get what you want. A crisis on the job on Tuesday or Wednesday could prompt you to act erratic. Don't push your luck and get out of control. Be sympathetic to a friend in need on Thursday or Friday. Confronted with a difficult decision over the weekend, your best bet would be to toss ideas back and forth and think through all the pros and cons carefully. Don't be stubborn, do the right thing.



Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You may be rethinking a particular relationship on Monday, and have serious questions about whether you want to pursue it. Take some time and space to sort out your feelings. You should feel cheerful, ebullient and vivacious by Tuesday or Wednesday, the perfect time to do some PT. Housemates may get on your nerves with very little provocation on Thursday or Friday. You aren't exactly at your best. Don't rush forward with the hope of bypassing the boring details. You should enjoy yourself over the weekend. Good connections are made, and a good time is had by all.



Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You could delegate until the cows come home on Monday, and that wouldn't be the worst thing in the world. Watch yourself when sharing your household products with housemates on Wednesday. At this time, people often overstep their bounds and make unreasonable demands. You can be diplomatic without being two-faced. Thursday, look at the details, devote some time to research and be conscientious. Check your e-mail with vigilance; someone long-distance may have the perfect solution to your woes. Take a break from work over the weekend. You deserve to rest and relax!



Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Health issues may take precedence over everything else as the week begins. It may be extremely frustrating to have to cancel plans, and be on profile but your body is trying to tell you something. You're open to experimenting with alternative forms of healing on Tuesday and Wednesday. You could be responsive to new and profound ideas and make sudden changes in your eating, exercise and work habits. Be especially careful when dealing with others in business matters on Thursday or Friday. You continue to be open to new ideas and new experiences over the weekend.



Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

The mystery of life intrigues you more than ever on Monday. Provide yourself with opportunities for creative expression; a trip to the ceramics shop, entertain others with your music, poetry or laughter. Be a little self-protective on Tuesday or Wednesday. You have a tendency to blindly help those in need without realizing what you're getting yourself into. You may have strong opinions on Thursday and Friday. Restrain yourself, remember, you are a professional. Over the weekend think about your needs seriously, assess your future goals and act with good conscience.

*for entertainment purposes only

Movie Schedule

DOWNTOWN LYCEUM	CAMP BULKELEY
Friday, September 27	Friday, September 27
8 p.m. Stuart Little 2, PG13 - 70 min	8 p.m. American Outlaws, PG13 - 95 min
10 p.m. Eight Legged Freaks, PG13 - 99 min	10 p.m. Don't Say A Word, R - 110 min
Saturday, September 28	Saturday, September 28
8 p.m. Crocodile Hunter, PG - 89 min	8 p.m. Twister, PG13 - 96 min
10 p.m. Men In Black II, PG13 - 91 min	10 p.m. We Were Soldiers, R - 138 min
Sunday, September 29	Sunday, September 29
8 p.m. Blood Work, R - 111 min	8, 10 p.m. The Hurricane, R - 146 min
Monday, September 30	Monday, September 30
8 p.m. Austin Powers 3, PG13 - 91 min	8 p.m. Valentine, R - 97 min
Tuesday, October 1	Tuesday, October 1
8 p.m. Eight Legged Freaks, PG13 - 99 min	8 p.m. Driven, PG13 - 118 min
Wednesday, October 2	Wednesday, October 2
8 p.m. K-11: The Widow Maker, PG13 - 140 min	8 p.m. Die Hard, R - 131 min
Thursday, October 3	Thursday, October 3
8 p.m. Blood Work, R - 111 min	8, 10 p.m. Double Take, PG13 - 88 min

MIGRANTS, from page 1

migrants' reasons for fleeing their homeland and whether that reason is meritorious enough to grant them protection in the form of non-refoulement. In other words, not returning them to the country where they fear persecution, and by resettling them in a third country.

"I take my job very seriously; it can mean the difference between life and death to the people who come through my door," Beltran said. "If they have a valid reason for fleeing, such as persecution, they will receive protection and will be resettled. Various factors such as language spoken, cultural background, relatives in a particular third country, etc. determine which country the migrant will be placed in, although I am not involved with that phase of the process. The Department of State and the receiving country are the principal entities in the resettlement process, but are also assisted by various other organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, and the Red Cross."

The voyage of migrants and refugees to GTMO has slowed down considerably since the early and mid 90's, when GTMO was home to approximately 21,000 Haitian refugees and 34,000 Cuban migrants. Those were the highest numbers during Operation Sea Signal. But, that doesn't mean that migrants and refugees don't attempt the dangerous trip to GTMO on a daily basis.

"Speaking with these people, I understand why they want to come here," said Beltran. "They seek freedom to choose their government, job, and religion. They seek the American dream. They are in pursuit of happiness and democracy. Simple things to us, but mere dreams to them."

The majority of refugees or migrants that make it to GTMO are Haitian and Cuban. Perhaps this is due to close proximity of their



Photo Courtesy of Church Renewal International
The crowded streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, October 2001. This downtown photo displays the typical hustle and bustle of people of this impoverished country as they flock to the marketplace to buy and sell goods.

homelands to the island. But why do these people flee their homes and countries with the possibility of losing it all?

"I understand that even though my parents were killed, my application for asylum may be denied. Then I would have to go back to Haiti...." said Louciana Miclisse, nine-year-old Haitian refugee, in an article entitled the Last in Line by Lilia Fernandez.

Haiti is the third poorest country in the world. Crime is rampant and the streets are congested with people, cars, and trash.

In Cuba, people are subject to blackouts on a daily basis, often for hours at a time. Water is available once a week for about six hours, and that is only at a trickle. Thus, hygiene is not nearly up to the standards Americans are used to.

The average person living in Cuba can afford to buy a pair of shoes once every four to five years, and a one-month supply of food

per person consists of what many Americans can consume in one day. Their monthly ration card provides them with a five-lb. bag of sugar, five-lb. bag of rice, one-lb. bag of beans, 1/4 lb. bag of pasta, six eggs, six ounces of soy and beef mix, and six ounces of sausage.

Additionally, the regime presiding over the country has the power to detain anyone it feels is attempting to make changes that may threaten its authority.

"If the Cuban authorities feel that someone is attempting to make a change in the government, they can detain them, harass them, and blacklist them from getting a job. And with no job, or option of free enterprise, that only leads them to crime, which will only land them back in jail," Beltran said. "And the vicious cycle continues, leaving its people hopeless and filled with despair."

Being stationed on GTMO during the Global War on Terrorism, holding ground of so many war combatants, and home of the controversy surrounding them and their human rights, one may wonder, what about the human rights of so many others with so much less?

"The detainees being held here receive three meals a day. They are free to pray to whom ever they choose. They receive good medical care. And what about the Cuban migrants? Back in Cuba, their own country, they aren't treated half as well, and if they are jailed, they receive one bad meal a day, they don't receive medical attention, they don't have a controlled temperature environment, nor the most minimal hygiene facilities, not to mention the torture many of them endure" said Beltran.

Amidst all of the stress a servicemember endures and overcomes while being deployed anywhere around the world, it is to be known that what they protect and defend is a treasured asset that many have died for, both servicemember and common man, all pursuing the same dream - freedom!

The price of freedom is not cheap but is certainly worth all the money in the world.



DoD photo by Cpl. Adrian Olguin, U.S. Marine Corps.
Cuban migrants wait on a bus prior to boarding a plane which will take them from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., on Jan. 31, 1996. The Cubans are the last to leave the migrant processing center at Guantanamo Bay. Joint Task Force 160 was originally established on May 18, 1994, to provide humanitarian assistance to Haitians escaping political strife. A wave of Cuban migrants followed in August of 1994. All Haitians and Cubans recovered at sea were transported to Guantanamo Bay. At its height in early October 1994, the tent city at Guantanamo Bay sheltered more than 46,000 Haitian and Cuban migrants.

2/142 Infantry Company leads

Story by Spc. Joseph A. Morris
Photos by Spc. Chris S. Pisano
The Wire

"Facing the unknown, and not knowing what's to come is the Army way," said Army Capt. Jason C. Beaty, the commander of the 2/142 Infantry Company. "I think some of our troops were surprised when they found out we were coming here. When we were activated, our initial impression was homeland defense in participation of Operation Noble Eagle."

Now a part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the infantrymen of the 2/142 Infantry Company, guardsmen from Texas, are here to provide security within Camp Delta and the surrounding perimeter.

"We've been activated since May," said 1st Sgt. Richard Rodriguez Jr. "We mobilized at Fort Hood, Texas where we went through some new, updated training to get us well prepared for this mission."

"We got more than we were bargaining for," said Spc. Jason A. Cruz. "We thought we were going to be defending the states, then we ended up here in Cuba."

"A lot of jaws dropped when we found out our mission was going to be here at GTMO," said Sgt. Jose Vasquez. "I think we came in thinking things were going to be worse than they were. We got the routine down fast and mellowed out all the initial craziness."

Once settled in, the infantrymen quickly took charge of a myriad of responsibilities all meant to provide the utmost security for Camp Delta.



Spc. Guadalupe Bravo, an all-American soldier with the 2/142 Infantry Company, holds a firm grip on his 50-caliber machine gun while scanning his surroundings with his eagle eyes while partaking in a mounted patrol.

also supply assistance to the military police inside of the wire."

Members within the unit, rotate throughout the different duties after working three days on a single task.

Mounted patrols, which are performed in Humvees, cover a wide area of the outer perimeter's roads and trails.

"While out on mounted patrols, we're the Mavericks," said Sgt. Jose Vasquez. "It beats working the checkpoints where we bake out in the sun."

The un-mounted patrols are performed on foot, covering the hard-to-reach places that cannot be accessed by vehicles.

"Sometimes it gets tough working through the different conditions," said Cruz. "But it's all worth it because I'm proud to wear this uniform."

And ensuring that those who enter the area have proper identification is a requirement at all of the different checkpoints that these soldiers must keep up on.

"It's a tough job keeping accountability of everyone passing through the different points," said Rodriguez. "But everyone has to play according to the rules."

"We are responsible for manning the towers in Camp Delta, securing the check points and performing mounted and un-mounted patrols twenty four hours a day, seven days a week on this mission here," said Rodriguez. "We have to secure the perimeter and always be sure of what's coming in or going out. We

Perhaps the hardest job is that of guarding Camp Delta up in the numerous towers.

"In the towers, it's hot, but we deal with it because we're infantry," said Spc. Michael

Ramirez. "We have to keep a vital eye on what's going on inside the wire, but at the same time, we're also watching the outside. We have to make sure no one is leaving with any souvenirs."

"We're always watching the detainees very closely," said Ramirez. "They might look and act timid now, but later on, they'd try to bite you if they could."

Even after only three days of the same assigned task, after a period of time, the job still seems to get extremely repetitive.

"It's hard not to become complacent performing the same tasks over and over again," said Beaty. "But even being overworked and understaffed, these troops are doing a great



High atop a hill, Spc. James E. Rawls scans over the sea for any suspicious air or water vessels.

MWR Watch

Tae Kwon Do helps keep GTMO servicemembers in good shape

Story and photos by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin
The Wire

Many of the servicemembers who come to GTMO have pledged to get the best out of this deployment while serving Operation Enduring Freedom at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

They have worked different shifts to support Joint Task Force 160.

But during their free time, they have decided to learn something new or take on a physical activity that can help them improve their physique while they are here.

The discipline that Tae Kwon Do teaches has attracted many of them.

Spc. Rhonda Reed, from the 342nd Military Police Company, muscled through her first Tae Kwon Do class Monday.

"I decided to take Tae Kwon Do because I heard it's a good workout," she said. "Today is my first lesson. I wanted to get a feel of what it's all about. I guess I'm

going to be fine because I was able to keep up with the other students."

Reed said she was recommended by Army Sgt. Joel O'Bradovic, who is from her company.

"I recommended this class to Spc. Reed because of the benefits I got out of it," said O'Bradovic.

"I think Tae Kwon Do combined with the other P.T. that I've done with my company has helped me maintained my overall physical fitness," he said.

"On my last P.T. test, I improved by 30 points. I was able to add to my push-up repetitions, max out my sit-ups and dropped my run time by two minutes," added O'Bradovic.



Spc. Rhonda Reed, a soldier from the 342nd MP Company, fully extends her leg for a high-level kick.



Right: Army Sgt. Joel O'Bradovic, from the 342nd Military Police Company, performs a high-stretched kick at the same time as his opponent at the Tae Kwon Do class held Monday at the Marine Hill Aerobics room.

"This is a good program. I recommend it to both males and females," he said as he regained his composure from the first part of his workout.

The Tae Kwon Do class meets Monday through Friday at 7p.m. at the Marine Hill Aerobics Room.

This Monday, the classes were led by Matthew Brittle Jr., a first-degree black belt.

Brittle started the class with some stretches, crunches, push-ups and body builders before the heavy kicks. All of the students seemed to have enjoyed the workout.

Anybody is welcome to attend Tae Kwon Do classes.

The Hispanic Heritage Dinner Dance

Please join us in a celebration of Hispanic heritage on Saturday, September 28th from 6 p.m. until midnight at the Windjammer.

The program will consist of a dinner buffet and cultural performances reflecting this year's theme of "Hispanic Americans: Strength in Unity, Faith, and Diversity."

Tickets are now on sale for the dinner program. \$12 for adults and \$6 for children.

For more information, please call SKC Marcia Cunningham at x72035

This Week

MWR is offering sailing classes and monthly meetings for anyone interested in Mate A/Skipper B (Centerboard) Qualifications on the Hunters and Zumas. All together it will consist of six session classes. Three sessions will be held in the classroom and three sessions will be held on the water. Any questions concerning these sailing classes, please contact Capt. Gormly at #5249 or Maj. Buchanan at #5255.

- * Daily free daytime & evening lessons for sailing, kayaking, and motor boating at Pelican Pete's Marina.
- * Advanced step aerobics classes, Denich Gym, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:15PM-6:15PM.
- * Tae Kwon Do classes, Marine Hill Aerobics Room, Monday-Friday, 6:30PM-7:30PM.
- * 1-On-1 spinning classes, Denich Gym, Monday-Friday, 6:30PM-7:30PM.
- * Yoga Ultimate Stretch class, Denich Gym, 5:15PM-6:15PM, Tuesday & Thursday.
- * Flag Football leagues, Monday-Friday, 6 PM, Cooper Field.
- * 75¢ bowling, Marblehead Lanes, Monday-Friday, 1PM-4PM.

Today, Friday, Sept. 27th

- 6AM-6PM, Open swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 6AM-8AM, 10AM-6PM, Open swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11AM-7PM, Open swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 5:30PM-12AM Night fishing trip, Pelican's Pete's Marina.

Saturday, Sept. 28th

- 6AM-8AM, 10AM-6PM, Open swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 6AM-6PM, Open swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10AM-6PM Open swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 6AM MWR 50 Mile bike race; the Bike Shak near the Paintball Range is the starting point.
- 7PM 9-Pin No-Tap, Marblehead Lanes.

Sunday, Sept. 29th

- 6AM-8AM, 10AM-6PM, Open swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 6AM-6PM, Open swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10AM-6PM Open swim, Deer Point Pool.

Monday, Sept. 30th

- 6AM-6PM, Open swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 6AM-8AM, 10AM-6PM, Open swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11AM-7PM, Open swim, Deer Point Pool.

Tuesday, October 1st

- 6AM-6PM, Open Swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 10AM-8PM, Open Swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11AM-7PM, Open Swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 1PM-7PM, Climbing classes, Rappel Tower

Wednesday, October 2nd

- 6AM-6PM, Open swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 6AM-8AM, 10AM-6PM, Open swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11AM-7PM, Open swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 1PM-7PM, Climbing classes, Rappel Tower

Thursday, October 3rd

- 6AM-6PM, Open swim, Marine Hill Pool.
- 6AM-8AM, 10AM-6PM, Open swim, Windjammer Pool.
- 11AM-7PM, Open swim, Deer Point Pool.
- 7PM Monopoly Night, CBQ.

Iguana Crossing Coffee House, special hideout for socializing at GTMO

Story and photos by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin
The Wire

For the past two years, servicemembers and civilians, married or single, assigned to GTMO have been finding comfort in a special place, where they enjoy good conversation and free coffee.

This place, which has different meanings for its various patrons, is known as the Iguana Crossing Coffee House.

Located at Chapel Hill, next to the base chapel, the Iguana Crossing has a picture of an iguana crossing sign boldly displayed on the entrance inviting people passing by to come in.

"It's a place for people to get away in a non-alcoholic environment," said Navy Lt. Sharon Bush, the base Protestant chaplain. "Everything is free. We have cappuccino, decaf coffee, milk, cream, liquid chocolate, baked goods and snack items. It's a real coffee bar."

"Leave your rank at the door," she said. "The Iguana Crossing is more of a place for socializing, talking and playing games."

For some of the patrons, "the coffee house is a quiet place to go and meet new people," said Navy Seaman Apprentice Harry Stallter, who works with base security.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Zoe Picard, who works at the J-3 section of JTF-160 Headquarters, said that the Iguana Crossing is not just a place to drink coffee. It has a deeper meaning.

"For me, it's a way to meet the diverse community serving at GTMO," she said.

Her association with the Iguana Crossing allowed her to meet "the MPs serving at Camp Delta," she said. "I've also met DOD teachers, other instructors, FBI agents who work here, civilians and high school students."

Like Picard, Stallter can't help talking about his unforgettable experiences by coming to this place.

"By coming here, I've met with college professors and many important people whom I've got good advice from. As a young seaman, I've learned a lot, especially from Chief Picard, who is a senior enlisted," said Stallter.

"We got people of all ages - middle-aged like me and young people like Harry," said Picard.

The Iguana Crossing is manned only by volunteers. It was established in November 2000.

To keep this place going, "we need volunteers," said Bush. "People can bring things and sign their name on a clipboard to volunteer."



Army Maj. Michael S. Merrill, chaplain of Camp America Protestant service, gently pours some coffee in a cup for Army Sgt. 1st Class Digna Rosario Saturday night. They are both from 160th MPBN.

Many servicemembers have already volunteered to serve at the



Chaplain Sharon Bush pointing to the clipboard for volunteers to sign on.

coffee bar of the Iguana Crossing. Last Saturday, the shift was



Left, Valerie Jones and Earlene Helms helping out at the Iguana Crossing Coffee House after the Protestant service Sunday. The place was filled with adults and kids enjoying the house specialties.

manned by Army Maj. Michael S. Merrill, the Protestant chaplain at Camp America and Army Sgt. 1st Class Digna Rosario, both from the 160th Military Police Battalion, now attached to JTF-160.

"I've volunteered a dozen times. I see it as a way to give back to the community," said Picard.

"When I volun-

teer, I ask the people who come in: How was your day at work? and What can I do for you? as to make them feel more comfortable. I try to make a conscientious effort to provide customer service," proudly said Picard.

Stallter added, "During my shift, if someone new comes in, I'll cut off my conversation, turn to him and say: hey, how are you doing?"

The Iguana Crossing is not only for religious people.

"I am not a religious person," said Picard. "But I come here and I volunteer."

"Believers and non-believers are welcome," said Bush. "Come and check it out."

"So far, we have a fairly consistent response from the people who rotate with JTF-160. But, we always need volunteers," said Bush.

The chaplain said she is in the process of finding a coordinator for special events to help make the place more interesting and enjoyable. Such events might include poetry reading or a soiree with a musician or a talent.

If you want to volunteer for the Iguana Crossing, call Chaplain Bush at x2323.

The Iguana Crossing Coffee House is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

the way securing Camp Delta



Spc. Joe Garcia uses all of his concentration to maintain his 50-caliber's ammunition while securing a stationary, low-profile and elevated fighting position.

job."

Despite any shortcomings in numbers, these infantrymen make up the difference with their intense training, which allows them to know their jobs like professionals.

"Our training at Fort Hood was very intense," said Staff Sgt. James Vasquez. "It got us up to par. We knew what to expect



Spc. Jason A. Cruz creeps through some brush while performing a foot patrol through the backland.

when we got here, and we were ready. Being infantrymen, we were trained this way, so there are no complaints."

"The training at Fort Hood specified in areas such as riot control and cell extractions," said Rodriguez. "Now here at GTMO, everyone in the 2/142 will go through Non-Lethal Munitions training, so they'll be better off during any riot-type situations."

"We're packing ammo in our weapons, so

we all must be qualified," said Rodriguez. "Our weapons' training includes but is not limited to 50 caliber, shotgun, M-16, 9 millimeter and sniper training. With the weapons we're stacking, we can really reach out and touch someone."

These highly motivated soldiers have definitely touched success as well, for they always get the job done right

from the start.

"We were completely ready to take over after the second day we were here," said Staff Sgt. Vasquez. "And by now, we're ready enough to hand it over and go back to our home station."

"The 2/142 is a collaboration of different companies," said Rodriguez. "We have troops from North, South and Central Texas all working together here."

"It's been an interesting experience coming together with the other companies and forming one unit," said Spc. Robert Lara Jr., "because everyone had their own opinion. Out on a mission like this, all you need is a good attitude to stay alive."

"We are the one and only unit here performing this mission," said Rodriguez. "In regard to Camp Delta, we are the first line of defense."

"The mission requirements for the troops here are demanding day in and day out," said Beaty. "We ask a lot from them, and they give us a lot in return."

Day after day, morale must fight to win.

"Sometimes the conditions get tough," said Staff Sgt. Vasquez. "Morale goes up and down, but the mission can not and does not get effected by that."

"You have to be out there with the troops to get a feel for things and see how things are," said Rodriguez. "It's very important to show support to the troops."

"Our commanding general and battalion commander came here to GTMO to show us support," said Cruz. "They



Spc. Luis D. Salazar radios back to his command to release his latest, expertly gathered information.

were here to boost our morale and help us get through the rest of our stay."

"It gets tough being so far away from home," said Lara. "But calling home and talking to the family helps to keep morale up."

"I can't wait to get back to Texas, where the land doesn't end," said Sgt. Vasquez."

"It's the soldiers who are out there, doing the work day after day," said Beaty. "It's common for morale to go up and down, but I think we're in good shape."

No matter what, these noble infantrymen proudly serve their country, and Beaty couldn't be more pleased with their performance.

"We have great troops doing an outstanding job," he said. "I couldn't ask for any more."



Capt. Jason C. Beaty, commander of the 2/142 Infantry Company (l), and company 1st Sgt. Richard Rodriguez Jr., want GTMO followers to know who was here.



And the deuce-and-a-halves keep on rolling in! Troops from Camp America were transported to their temporary hurricane-proof housing at Windward Loop and East Caravella.

'Lili' brings 'em in from the field

Story and photos by
Spc. Michelle M. Scsepko
The Wire

As the winds of Tropical Storm Lili move toward GTMO, Camp America soldiers move toward Windward Loop and East Caravella.

That's right: yesterday morning the Loop and Caravella were busy! Troops from Camp America packed up their belongings, moved out, and moved in. They unloaded deuce-and-a-halves, carrying rucksacks, cots, and water. The troops were fully pre-

pared for whatever power Lili's punch will pack on GTMO.

Lili is expected to hit ground today at 3 p.m. She brings with her winds that at times may gust up to 90 miles per hour.

But GTMO is ready!

The duration of their stay in their new homes all depends of the intensity and duration of Lili. So until she blows on by, the SEAhuts at Camp America will be barren, and those living at the Loop and Caravella will have a little more company.



Spc. David Moore, 114th MP Company, lends a hand or a forklift to help out. He unloaded cots off a deuce-and-a-half for his fellow troops to use during their stay.



Army Sgt. Michael M. Cox, 342nd MP Co. walks through Windward Loop with his cot to his hurricane proof home.



Troops from the 2/142nd infantry Co. came prepared, unloading coolers of water, and sleeping bags for the hurricane.



Army Staff Sgt. Janet Hamack, 346th MP Company, discusses the new living arrangements of Camp America soldiers with Navy Petty Officer Andy Trinh, Naval station housing.



A soldier from the 2/142nd infantry Co. seems to have packed it all!